

Catawba Islander Trail & Greenway

FAQs

1. **Has the ODOT Crash Data been verified or matched with the Police/Fire/EMS local data?**

The Park District is working to schedule meetings with Police, Fire and EMS officials in order to discuss data as well as emergency response planning.

2. **Will the Parks Board use eminent domain to acquire property or easements for the Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway project?**

No

3. **Explain the easement process.**

The Park District is working with willing property owners. Once property owners and the Park District are ready to proceed, a boundary survey will be conducted to establish existing property lines. The surveyor, with direction from the Park District and property owner, will draft a legal description and exhibit for the easement. Once approved, the Park District and owner will proceed with recording the easement and their terms for the use of said easement. Kleinfelder-PDG does not prepare the actual easement, just the supporting documentation. The Park District's legal representative will prepare the actual easement.

4. **How much right-of-way is on SR 53?**

Approximately 80', roadway is 34 ft wide. Kleinfelder-PDG will develop typical sections for the trail proposed within ODOT right-of-way for State review. Kleinfelder-PDG will also note potential drainage issues and utility conflicts for further discussion with ODOT.

5. **Who will be responsible for maintenance of proposed trail?**

The Park District will coordinate a specialized plan for maintenance and will include the development of a volunteer maintenance team.

6. **Who will be responsible for enforcement of proposed trail?**

Ottawa County Sheriff and Catawba Township Police. The Park District of Ottawa County also has the statutory authority to hire or contract law enforcement.

7. **Who has been involved in the process to date?**

Community members, the Park District of Ottawa County, Kleinfelder-PDG, and Friends of Ottawa County Parks. Local officials have been consulted regarding aspects of the trail concepts.

8. **How far off of 53 will trail be?**

It depends on the right-of-way in each section as well as utilities within the right-of-way.

9. **Will trees be removed? Explain process.**

Tree removal will be kept to a minimum and will occur only when necessary. Topographic surveys will identify the location of trees, roads, right-of-way, utilities, and the proposed trail alignment and an environmental impact study will be conducted for the project area to ensure impact is minimized. There should not be trees located within the existing State Route 53 right-of-way. If any are identified, ODOT could require them to be removed.

10. Explain trail landscaping and signage.

The trail will be landscaped with plant species native to the region. The landscaping design will also take into consideration habitat transitions, wildlife viewing areas, and existing conditions. Where appropriate, the trail may be landscaped with non-invasive and historically significant fruit bearing vegetation such as grapes and peaches. Interpretive signage will be placed in order to communicate historical and natural features. Wayfinding signage will be placed accordingly. A committee will be developed by the Park District in order to develop a specific landscaping, signage and interpretive plan.

11. Will trail connect parks?

Phase One will begin at Catawba Nature Preserve. Future phases may connect Phase One to Cedar Meadow Preserve.

12. Explain the phasing of the trail?

The concept for the trail has been divided into five phases. Each phase could take three to five years to complete. Trail routing connecting to Phase One will be developed through future planning initiatives. For Phase One, an environmental assessment will be completed and the Park District will work with willing property owners for right-of-way, followed by application for ODOT grant funding. Engineering and geotechnical assessments will be done before applying for grant.

13. Where will people park for proposed trail?

The Park District is working on trailhead locations for adequate parking and other amenities. The Phase One termini will be at logical endpoints with public parking access including Catawba Nature Preserve and Catawba Island Club Boat Storage. The trailheads will be marked with signage and on maps as the designated parking locations for trail access. Future phases will include trailheads with parking as well to eventually have multiple smaller lots rather than a large parking lot taking away from the natural space. Multiple designated parking locations will also give more choices for trail access and deter parking in non-designated areas.

14. Explain planning meeting process.

The Catawba Advisory Council is citizen group who provide feedback and ideas to the Park District Board of Park Commissioners. The Catawba Advisory Council meets regularly and provides meeting reports to the Park District. The Park District Board of Park Commissioners meet twice per month. All board meetings are open to the public with time allotted for public comment. The Master Plan process included an Open House and presentation. All information presented at the Open House is available on the Park District website – www.ottawacountyparksoh.org.

15. Where will restrooms be?

Restrooms will be at trailhead locations. The timing of the restrooms will depend on the amount of funding available, property access, utilities availability, etc.

16. How will ODOT be involved in this project?

ODOT has been involved in discussions about the trail and will review the Master Plan once it is complete. Grant funding, which will be pursued, is administered by ODOT and ODNR. The Park District is following ODOT guidelines in the preliminary engineering phase with the understanding that both ODOT and ODNR will require the Park District to follow ODOT requirements.